

Tuesday, September 11, 2012

PLAY IT WHERE IT LIES

For the Veterans

who come to Iowa City for the National Veterans TEE Tournament it's a chance to connect with old friends, get out of the house and try new things. For Vince Allen, 8-time participant at the tournament from Poplar Bluff, Missouri, it's a chance to get out and actually play the game he loves.

"Back home, no one wants to play with the blind guy," said the former Navy Corpsman. "But out here, I am just one of the guys trying to get one good shot."

Along with his daughter Shawna, Vince practices his skills year round so that he can try to improve each year at the tournament. This year's goal: hitting out of the sand traps.

"I've never hit out of the sand before, usually they just move my ball back into the grass," he said. "This year I'm not going to let them; I need to get my practice in."

Playing in Pro-Am day of the tournament with members of the local Fraternal Order of Eagles post allowed

Vince to get a feel for playing on a real course, along with spending some quality time with his daughter.

"My wife told us to come down here, that this was our time to be together just me and her," he said. "Coming here is something of a tradition now. People are recognizing us, it's really nice to see old friends and more importantly make new ones."

For blind Veterans, golf represents a great opportunity to get outside and interact with other people while learning and practicing coping skills that are useful in their day-to-day lives.

"I can't wait to get home and show my friends what we do here," he said with a smile. "It's a chance to show that being blind is no excuse to not get out and play."

*Story and Photography by
Shane Suzuki*



U.S. Navy Veteran Vince Allen
hits one out of the sand.



TWITTER

twitter.com/VAAadaptiveSport



YOUTUBE

www.youtube.com/user/DeptVetAffairs



FLICKR

www.flickr.com/photos/VeteransAffairs



FACEBOOK

www.facebook.com/VeteransAffairs

6:00 am - 7:30 am

BREAKFAST BUFFET

7:30 am

LOAD BUSES (Each team has the same bus all day.)

8:00 am - 11:00 am

RED

GREEN

YELLOW

BLUE

PURPLE

BLACK

11:00 am - 12:30 pm

LUNCH SERVED AT YOUR EVENT

12:30 pm - 3:30 pm

RED

INSTRUCTION

Bonnie Whitson
Quail Creek

GREEN

INSTRUCTION

Bob Neff
Blue Top

YELLOW

GOLF

Mike Owen
Quail Creek

BLUE

GOLF

Eric Ringena
Blue Top

PURPLE

GOLF

Kate Beardsley
ELKS

BLACK

GOLF

Joe Padilla
Blue Top

5:30 pm - 7:00 pm

DINNER FOR ALL - Riverside Casino & Golf Resort Convention Center

6:00 pm - 9:00 pm

HORSESHOES Sponsored by VFW Post 6414 - Riverside Horseshoers

COMPANIONS

8:00 am - 9:30 am

MEET & GREET / CRAFT ACTIVITY in Event Center

9:30 am

LOAD BUS - Button Factory, Muscatine, IA

11:30 am - 3:30 pm

COMPANION LUNCH ACTIVITY



The Mess Hall

LUNCH

Hamburgers
Chips and Fresh Fruit
Cookies
Water & Assorted Soft Drinks

DINNER

Fresh Garden Salad
Catfish, Chicken or Beef Medallions
Hash Brown Casserole
Glazed Carrots
Green Bean Casserole
Chocolate Cake or Strawberry Cheesecake

